

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1        1. (Currently Amended) An inflatable hose system comprising first and second hose  
2        lengths adapted to be detachably coupled together, and end-sealed thus to be inflatable, and  
3        including an inflation valve connected to at ~~lest~~ least one of the first and second hose lengths.

1        2. (Original) An inflatable hose system according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the  
2        first and second hose lengths has one end flattened and sealed and, at an opposed end, has one part  
3        of a two-part coupling such that the two hose lengths may be coupled together with or without  
4        interposition of one or more additional lengths of standard hose.

1        3. (Currently Amended) An inflatable hose system according to Claim 1 ~~for Claim 2~~,  
2        wherein the inflation valve is mounted in the wall of one of the hose lengths.

1        4. (Original) An inflatable hose system according to Claim 2, wherein the or each  
2        flattened and sealed end includes a superimposed rigid plate and includes means for attachment  
3        thereto of a line or shackle.

1        5. (Currently Amended) An inflatable hose system according to Claim 2 ~~for claim 4~~,  
2        wherein the or each flattened end is sealed with a bonding agent and is vulcanised, with a pair of  
3        opposed plates bolted together through the flattened vulcanised hose end.

1        6. (Original) An inflatable hose system according to Claim 2, wherein the or each  
2        coupling part includes a valve to enable the associated hose length to be sealed after inflation.

1        7. (Original) An inflatable hose system according to Claim 3, wherein the inflation valve  
2        comprises an inner sleeve and an outer sleeve threadedly connected together, the inner sleeve

3 having a spigot which passes through an aperture in the hose wall, and a clamping washer being  
4 interposed between the inner and outer sleeves and having annular protrusions which serve to trap  
5 the wall of the hose between the inner and outer sleeves.

1 8. (Original) An inflatable hose system according to Claim 7, including an elbow  
2 connector threadedly engaged within the bore of the inner sleeve and including a one-way pressure  
3 relief valve.

1 9. (Currently Amended) An inflatable hose system according to [any preceding claim]  
2 claim 1, incorporating an angular elbow connector attachable between the respective hose lengths  
3 whereby the system may be assembled to form an angular or curved boom.

1 10. (Currently Amended) An inflatable hose system according to [any preceding claim]  
2 claim 1, including an inflation unit comprising a pressure regulator, a pressure relief valve and  
3 selectable valve means to permit deflation of the hose system.

1 11. (Original) An inflation unit according to Claim 9, wherein the pressure regulator is  
2 adapted to inflate the hose system to a pressure in the range 2 to 3.5 bar.

1 12. (Original) A method of producing a floatable boom comprising the steps of providing  
2 first and second hose lengths each having one end sealed, detachably coupling the hose lengths  
3 together and inflating the coupled hose lengths to a pressure sufficient for them to become rigid  
4 such that they may be pushed from one end across the surface of water without submerging.

1 13. (Original) A method according to Claim 12, wherein the sealed end of at least one of  
2 the hose lengths is flattened to become chisel-shaped whereby the hose will ride across the surface

3 of the water easily and rapidly without submerging.

1 14. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 12 ~~for Claim 13~~, including the  
2 step of interposing one or more further lengths of open-ended hose between the first and second  
3 hose lengths thus to extend the length of the system.

1 15. (Original) A method according to Claim 14, wherein the or each further length of  
2 standard hose is attached to one of the first and second hose lengths after inflation thereof.

1 16. (Original) A method according to Claim 12, wherein at least one angular connector is  
2 attached between the respective hose lengths to form an angular or curved boom capable of  
3 containing floating objects or substances.

1 17. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of Claims 12 to 16~~ Claim 12,  
2 wherein the coupled hose lengths are inflated to a pressure in the range of 2 to 3.5 bar.